

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Marine Reserves Working Group Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2000
8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
University Center – UCSB
Flying A Studio
Ucen Way Santa Barbara, California

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Patricia Wolf, Chair
Matt Pickett, Co-Chair
Locky Brown
Ed Cassano
Marla Daily
Kathy DeWitt-Olson (alt. for Steve Roberson)
Robert Fletcher
Dr. Craig Fusaro
Dale Glantz
Neil Guglielmo
Greg Helms (alt. for Warner Chabot)
Mark Helvey
Deborah McArdle
Dr. Michael McGinnis
Merritt McRae (alt. for Tom Raftican)

Steve Roberson
Dave Parker (alt. for Patty Wolf)
Bruce Steele (SAC) (alt. for Chris Miller)
Alicia Stratton

Michael Eng, Facilitator
John Jostes, Facilitator

Staff from CINMS/DFG: Sean Hastings,
Dr. Satie Airame, Mike Murray, Mettja Hong,
Julie Goodson

Members of the public

("alt." designates alternate for primary working
group member)

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting opened up with a statement by Patty Wolf, the Department of Fish and Game representative and Chairperson of the MRWG. Patty mentioned the growing concern over the timing of the process, but reminded the MRWG that there is still a lot of planning to do, especially since this is an unprecedented process. Steve Roberson, Channel Islands Marine Restoration Committee member, expressed concern over the timing of the process. He suggested moving the process forward by looking at maps and "drawing lines" as to where marine reserves should go and which areas are critical, rather than concentrating on details and verbiage. After much discussion, it was decided that the Science Panel needed the Goals and Objectives first to be able to move forward. Bruce Steele, commercial fisherman and member of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) expressed concern over the concept of fisheries management and its absence from the marine reserves process. His interest lies in fisheries management and would like alternatives to closures considered. Other members of the MRWG commented that Bruce's concerns regarding fisheries management seemed beyond the MRWG's scope.
- Adoption of Meeting Summary from February 23, 2000 Working Group Meeting:** John Jostes led the group in a review of the February meeting summary. Craig Fusaro suggested minor changes and corrections. The changes were noted and the summary accepted.
- Instructions for Deliberations by Task Groups:** A handout with instructions for each member was distributed. Questions were brought up regarding the format of the goals and objectives. Satie Airame suggested that the MRWG provide measurable objectives to the Science panel for development of marine reserve monitoring protocols.
- Task Group Break-out sessions:** The following task groups convened at this time:
 - Research and Education
 - Natural and Cultural Heritage/Recreation
 - Socioeconomic
 - Sustainable Fisheries
 - Ecosystem Biodiversity

- Reserve Administration

Simultaneous with these break-out sessions, the Planning Task Group met to review the status of the MRWG process, progress to date, and develop a verbal report for presentation to the full MRWG regarding process refinements, schedule implications, budgetary considerations, data collection/joint fact-finding and other matters relevant to the success of the MRWG consensus process.

5a. Task Group Progress Check: Each task group presented their suggested goals and objectives to the whole MRWG. The following goals and objectives are written as presented to the MRWG. Discussion followed each report. Note: It was decided that the entire MRWG would work on Reserve Administration together.

Research / Education

Research

Goal #1: *To provide research areas to monitor ecosystem functions and acquire baseline data to assess natural and human impacts to undisturbed reserves and impacted areas*

Objectives (Goal #1)

- Establish coordinated monitoring and experimental network to track ecological patterns and processes in, adjacent to, and distant from marine reserves
- Combine historical data with baseline inventory studies

Goal #2: *To provide research areas in which the effectiveness of reserves as a fishery management tool can be evaluated on both a short- and long-term basis*

Objectives (Goal #2)

- Establish control and test areas for systematic study of nearshore fishes
 - a. larval export
 - b. adult migration
 - c. relative abundances
 - d. size-frequency distributions
 - e. other
- Develop an adaptive management design for reserves as experimental fishery management tool
- Design a method to assess the effectiveness of marine reserves as one tool in an integrated fishery management strategy

Education

Goal #1: *To foster stewardship of living and cultural resources by increasing awareness and encouraging responsible use of resources*

Objectives (Goal #1)

- Develop and distribute offsite interpretations and displays allowing indirect observation, study and appreciation of marine resources
- Provide pamphlets that include information (maps and diagrams, monitoring data, simple pictures of resources being protected) about marine reserves
- Promote personal visits – direct observation and study

Goal #2: *To provide educational opportunities for schools, colleges, universities and the public*

Objectives (Goal #2)

- Promote organized visits – direct observation and study
- Provide pamphlets, project ideas, worksheets for use on and offsite
- Develop monitoring and research projects that support classroom science curriculum to extend the available information and understanding
 - a) conduct repeated studies over time to assess natural variation and the difference between ‘natural’ and ‘utilized’
- Promote concept that research and monitoring are essential to planning and management

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Goal: *To provide and protect areas for visitor, spiritual, and recreational opportunities which include cultural and ecological features and their associated values*

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as the pursuit of activities of a spiritual or aesthetic nature
- To conserve exceptional ecological and cultural resources that stimulate and encourage human interaction with the marine environment and promote recreational activities, engaging human interest
- To conserve areas that encompass seascape, adjoin coastal landscapes, or possess other scenic or visual qualities (including both living and non-living resources) that exhibit outstanding capacity for engaging human interest, thereby enhancing human appreciation, understanding and awareness of the broad importance of marine resources
- To protect submerged remnants of past life that are of special historical, cultural, archeological, or paleontological value; or the area is of particular importance for the support of traditional uses.
- To offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, enjoyed once the area has been reached.

Socioeconomic

Goal: *To achieve long-term economic productivity while minimizing the short-term economic losses to all consumptive users*

Objectives

- Need to add the word “consumptive” after all and before the word “users”
- To achieve long-term benefits to non-consumptive users
- To the extent practicable, site reserves outside areas historically used by commercial and sport users
- Site reserves in areas that maximize benefits to non-consumptive users
- To monitor benefits and impacts of non-consumptive users
- To monitor benefits and impacts of consumptive users
- For purposes of enforcement, define permissible activities, e.g. transit, access, anchoring, etc...

Sustainable Fisheries

Goal: *To provide insurance against environmental uncertainties*

Objectives

- Document changes of catch characteristics of users after reserve establishment
- Design reserves over habitat where edge effect will be maximized
- Require other agencies to coordinate the fishery management decisions so, as to maximize recovery and sustainability of fish populations
- Establish long-term monitoring programs for fish populations inside, adjacent and distant from reserve areas
- Monitor impacts on commercial and recreational industries after establishment of reserve areas
- Study and evaluate the effect of predation by marine mammals and the impact on fishery resources within reserves on the effectiveness of marine reserves as fishery management tools

Ecosystem Biodiversity

Goal: *To protect representative and unique marine habitats, ecological processes, and populations of Interest*

Objectives

- To measure and identify levels of diversity, e.g. deep sea, native, etc...
- To determine what indices are needed to measure ecosystem integrity and to measure "health", e.g. keystone species, higher trophic level species, chemical composition (CO₂, O₂), predator/prey relationships
- To determine if any intact examples of marine habitat in pre-settlement conditions exist and strive to incorporate it into a marine reserve
- To maintain functional groups of species, e.g. species poor systems may need more protection than highly diverse areas
- To protect areas that provide ecosystem services (areas of denitrification, O₂ minimum zones, high levels of primary productivity)
- To provide insurance (resilience) against natural large-scale oceanographic features, etc...

Reserve Administration (Results of first break-out group)

Goal Areas of Importance:

- Establish a management plan to achieve marine reserve goals
- Ensure adequate long-term funding for:
 - Enforcement
 - Monitoring
 - Education/interpretation/outreach
 - Maintenance of adequate reserve/boundary signage and markings (charts, buoys, etc...)
- Community Participation
- Education
- Research/Monitoring
- Interagency Coordination (MOU)
- Accountability

MRWG Suggestions/Comments on Reserve Administration as follows:

Community participation

- Borrow information from the PFMC, which is currently in a similar process, to use for the management plan
- Plan with the State
- Have a management plan for each reserve site
- Make the management plan adaptive

Enforcement

- Design corridors with the least financial impact on boats
- Consider allowable transit with possession of catch
- Develop gear-specific boundary enforcement
- Talk to enforcement officers first, e.g. Phil Gats from the PFMC Enforcement Council
- Have clear boundary identification
- Allow stakeholders to contribute
- Develop a peer review panel
- Who will have primary management responsibility? State, Sanctuary, NMFS, others?
- Would like the State to do the enforcement
- Concern about gear drift into reserve Sunset if no funding?

MRWG Suggestions/Comments on Goals and Objectives as follows:

Education and Research

- Goal 1: We don't necessarily need "baseline" data
- Goal 2: Too much time concentrated on research in the reserves associated with fishery management
- Goal 2: Fishery management is unclear
- Goal 2: Take out "fishery management" and put it somewhere else
- Goal 2: Change to "as a *resource* and fishery management tool.

- Add a goal to say: Continually update educational material
- Reserve administration should include accountability
- Some of the goals could be established after the reserves are already in place
- A reserve could be designed for educational purposes

Cultural and Natural Resources

- Consider ease of access and proximity to anchorages
- There is a clashing of goals: “solitude” and “realistic” if allowing access of vehicles/vessels
- There could be a ranking system
- Prioritize the goals and objectives as a group (Mike Eng reminded the MRWG that a weighting of criteria is part of the process, as currently planned)

Socioeconomic

- Consider estimating effect on non-consumptive users
- Specify examples
- Put a ranking on objectives
- What about restoration value?

Sustainable Fisheries

- Consider spillover effects
- Buffer zones would maximize productivity
- What about larval displacement?
- “Environmental” uncertainties in goal – fishery management uncertainty
- Look at variability in natural environment
- Establish measurable objective to the Science Panel
- The main objective should be more and bigger fish
- More isn’t always good

Ecosystem Biodiversity

- What does “native” mean? What about non-native species that are out there?
- Biodiversity should not include non-native
- Diversity needs to be expanded to pre-settlement era

Reserve Administration

Funding, community participation, and enforcement were the primary concerns brought up during this discussion. Concerns regarding funding were concentrated on the uncertainty of the source of funding. It was suggested that an objective under Funding be included to say, “the MRWG recommends that long-term, stable funding for implementation of monitoring and enforcement should be required before the adoption of a marine reserve.” Consensus on the inclusion of this objective was not met.

Reserve Administration Goals and Objectives (Expanded version)

Management plan

- Community-based process
- Adaptive

Enforcement

- Allow transit with possession?
- Clear boundary identification
- Community-based peer review group for enforcement program

Funding

- MRWG recommendation to include long term, stable funding for implementation of monitoring and enforcement (should be required beforehand?)

Agency Coordination

- Each cooperating agency agrees to participate in an interagency MOU
- Each agency develops a budget request to implement their part of a cooperative MOU

5b. Species of Concern – Satie Airame: Satie requested that the MRWG review the species of concern list to narrow it down. Several members suggested that “concern” might be too strong of a word; other suggestions

included interest, focus, attention, or populations. The MRWG agreed that the title would be changed to "Species of Interest."

The list of species of interest includes:

- #1 *Species of economic and recreational importance*
- #2 *Keystone Species* - "Keystone Species" needs to be defined by the science panel
- #3 *Candidate, proposed, or species listed under the Endangered Species Act*
- #4 *Species which have exhibited long-term or rapid declines in harvest and/or size frequencies*
- #5 *Species which reserves are known to provide direct benefit*

The list of species of interest excludes:

- #1 *Species for which recruitment primarily comes from outside CINMS*
- #2 *Species are incidental or at the edge of their ranges*
- #3 *Species are highly migratory*

Suggestion: Take the above criteria to the Science Panel, but ask them to evaluate the list for ecologically important species.

6. Upcoming MRWG Meeting & Public Forum Dates:

Sean Hastings provided the MRWG with an update from the Planning Task Group meeting that took place among the Co-Chairs, Facilitation Team and Staff. He indicated that the Planning Task Group would provide a full report to the MRWG at its next meeting and offered the following tentative list of meeting dates through the end of November.

April 13 –	MRWG Meeting – Science Panel presentation, review of goals and objectives, and planning of public forums
May 11 –	MRWG Meeting
June 7 –	Public Information Forum on the Status of the Resources – Tetratich to present
June 8 –	MRWG Meeting – Assimilate, discuss, and debrief on the Status of the Resources presentation/forum
June 21 –	Public Information Forum on Socioeconomic Information
June 22 –	MRWG Meeting – Discuss socioeconomic information
July 18 –	MRWG Meeting – Criteria development for reserves
August 22-23 –	MRWG Meeting – Option development-take data and criteria and apply it
September 26 –	MRWG Meeting – Draft recommendation (choose option)
October 18 –	MRWG & Science Panel Meeting – Finalize recommendation
November 15 –	Sign document

7. Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. Each working group member is requested to submit any data (socioeconomic, cultural, etc...) to Satie Airame or Ben Waltenberger to include in the geographic information system (GIS)
2. Each working group member is requested to contact Satie Airame with any revisions to the Draft Species of "Interest" List
3. A request of Paul Reilly's (DFG) Program list given to the MRWG at the next meeting April 13, 2000
4. Sanctuary Staff will review the Goals and Objective created at the March 16th meeting and will produce a draft document for the MRWG to review at the April 13th meeting